

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 39-70 and 72-87 are pending in the application, with claim 39 being the only independent claim. Claim 71 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 87 has been added. Claims 39, 73, and 74 have been amended. The above-amendments are not believed to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 71 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by International Publication No. WO 98/48943 to Hennemann. Claim 71 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing that the subject matter recited in claims 39-70 and 72-86 is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Applicants have made a minor amendment to claim 39, removing recitation that the cartridge is "releasably" connected to the connection portion on the upper portion of the dispensing device. The recitation of a releasable connection is now in dependent claim 87. Further,

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claims 73 and 74 have been amended to recite alternative materials, to correspond to the amendment to claim 39, and to correct a typographical error in a previous amendment. Applicants believe that these amendments do not affect the patentability of the claims and respectfully request that they remain allowed.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,679

Date: May 6, 2003
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
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Version with markings to show changes made

Claim 71 has been canceled and claim 87 has been added.

Marked-up version of claim 39:

39. (Twice Amended) A cartridge for a liquid, which can be connected to a dispensing device, the dispensing device including an upper portion for receiving the cartridge and a lower portion which can be pushed over the cartridge when connected to the dispensing device, the upper portion of the dispensing device being provided with a connection portion for the cartridge and with a dispensing connection portion for drawing off the liquid, the cartridge comprising:

a stiff outer casing including a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion of the outer casing being coupled to the upper portion of the dispensing device;

a container which is stable with respect to shape and which is disposed in the casing; and

a collapsible bag disposed in the container and containing the liquid, wherein the bottom portion of the stiff outer casing is provided with an opening, and

wherein the container includes an opening and a stopper, the stopper including an insertion connection portion which forms a sealingly closing, centered guide means for the dispensing connection portion, and

wherein the stopper is non-releasably connected by the outer casing to the container, and

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wherein the cartridge is [releasably] connected to the connection portion on the upper portion of the dispensing device.

Marked-up version of claim 73:

73. (Twice Amended) A cartridge according to claim 39 for an alcoholic or aqueous liquid, wherein the container and the stopper comprise polypropylene, further comprising a collapsible bag of polyethylene disposed in the container, wherein:

the stiff outer casing comprises a metal, preferably aluminum, or a plastic material, preferably polypropylene;

the opening in the bottom of the stiff outer casing is a bore;

an end of the insertion connection portion is closed by a diaphragm inclined with respect to an axis of the insertion connection portion and the sealingly closing, centered guide means is a press fit and is connected by a snap connection to the container;

the cartridge is releasably connected to the connection portion by means of a releasable plug connection, the releasable plug connection being a snap connection in which there are provided in the connection portion of the upper portion of the dispensing device snap hooks which engage into a peripherally extending groove in an upper region of the cartridge;

the bottom of the outer casing includes an inset with a micro-opening which communicates with the bore in the outer casing; and

an inside of the bottom of the lower portion of the dispensing device is provided with a resilient piercing device for a sealing foil on an underside of the bottom of the casing.

Marked-up version of claim 74:

74. (Twice Amended) A cartridge according to claim 39 for an alcoholic or aqueous liquid, wherein the container and the stopper comprise polypropylene, further comprising a collapsible bag of polyethylene disposed in the container, wherein:

the stiff outer casing comprises a metal, preferably aluminum;

an end of the stopper is closed by a diaphragm which is inclined to an axis of the insertion connection portion;

the sealingly, closing guide means is in the form of a press fit;

the stopper is non-releasably connected by the outer casing to the container;

the [releasable] connection between the cartridge and the connection portion of the dispensing device is a releasable connection in the form of a snap connection in which there are hooks provided in the connection portion of the upper portion of the dispensing device snap hooks which engage into a peripherally extending groove in an upper region of the cartridge;

an inside of the bottom of the lower portion of the dispensing device is provided with a resilient piercing device for a sealing foil on an underside of the bottom of the casing.

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